

Cahanarama

Gourmet kitchens,
his-and-her changing rooms,
state-of-the-art gyms—
the new breed of pool house
is about more

than just the pool

By Meg Cohen Ragas

THEY COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, SOME with kitchens, others with wet bars. Some double as guest houses, gyms, offices, even

summer yoga studios. But whatever the function of the pool house, one

thing has become crystal clear: Pool houses are the new status symbols.

"They allow the opportunity for creative interpretation," says architect Reed Axelrod, who designed a pool house for a client who lives in a striking 1925 Georgian Colonial on 40 acres in Fort Washington. "They take on different uses depending on the client's wants and needs." Axelrod studied 18th-century Colonial outbuildings in Williamsburg, Virginia and Deerfield, Massachusetts, to come up with the plan for his 750-square-foot, double-gabled pool house with Dutch siding



DINING ALFRESCO: The bluestone patio of this Fort Washington pool house is the perfect setting for a late-afternoon lunch, ABOVE, TOP.



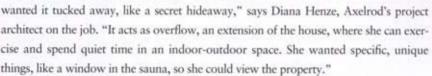


COMMUNING WITH NATURE: All of the spaces in the Fort Washington pool house, including the changing room, BELOW, and the cabana room, BOTTOM, have plenty of windows to let the outside in.

and a metal roof (built by Pilone Construction, Inc.). "The double gable was a very common shape in outbuildings from that period," he says.

Situated 150 feet from the main house, visible but also retaining its privacy, it's comprised of the cabana room, which the client has outfitted as a gym, a changing room, a sauna and a powder room. It's perpendicular to the 75-foot-long concrete lap pool, which is partially gated by a weathered wooden trellis.

The pool's Pennsylvania bluestone terrace is echoed in the pool house's large bluestone patio, which acts as an outdoor room and is accessed by French doors from the cabana room. Knotty cypress floors and exposed beams inside reflect its woodsy, one-with-nature setting, "The client



Property plays a large role in determining the look, feel and location of a pool house. For a Haverford client who lives in a handsome 1928 Eyre & McIlvaine stone-and-brick main house, architect Spence Kass designed a two-story pool pavilion that faces the breakfast wing of the main house and plays off its architectural style down to the exact materials—stone, brick and tile. "I wanted it to (continued on page 110)



